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AFINE
E. Williams
5-17-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 065691-0145

Applicants: Louis DeLesalle *et al.*
Title: RECOMBINANT PLANT GENOME, COMPRISING SPECIFIC
CHICORY GENES AND A NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE
CONFERRING MALE STERILITY, AND ITS USE
Application No.: 09/194,598
Filing Date: November 30, 1998
Examiner: David H. Kruse
Art Unit: 1638

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AMENDMENT AND RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:
This is a response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2002, in the above-captioned patent application.

Prior to reconsideration, Applicants request that the Office enter the following amendments.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 13, 14, and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer, and please amend the following claims:

12. (Twice Amended) A recombinant plant genome comprising at least one chicory gene and a nucleotide sequence conferring male sterility borne by a sunflower orf 522 sequence or by a male-sterility-conferring sequence with at least 50% homology with the sunflower orf 522 sequence, wherein said sunflower orf 522 sequence or said male-sterility-conferring sequence comprises polynucleotide sequences having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 and 2.

18. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a plant of the chicory genus or reproducing material of a plant of the chicory genus exhibiting cytoplasmic male sterility,